

GNLU convocation

# Seat-crunch forces parents to stand

As the varsity had not conducted a convocation last year, the graduating students of 2017 batch were also accommodated in the ceremony. This left no seat for several parents. Some were accommodated on plastic chairs

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While it was a moment of pride for the parents who attended the convocation ceremony of their children at Gujarat National Law University, many of them had to watch it standing for a long time. Some even left the auditorium, feeling humiliated. The varsity, which celebrated its ninth convocation, faced a severe seat crunch in the auditorium and parents had to stand for over an hour before plastic chairs were put on the stairs for them. This happened because the varsity had not conducted a convocation last year and decided to include the graduating students of last year in this year's ceremony, said sources.

A few parents ended up fighting for the chairs. They claimed they were treated rudely by the faculty members and were made to stand to give seats to VIPs.

A student who got his LLB degree said that it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for his parents to attend the convocation and that university should have done better seating arrangements. Jayashree Saikia, parent of the student told *Mirror*, "We came all the way from Guwahati to attend our daughter's convocation but were made to stand for a long time and even shoved by other parents standing behind us."

The capacity of the GNLU convocation auditorium was 800 but more than 1,000 people had attended the ceremony. Being questioned on the space-crunch faced by parents, Deputy Registrar Avinash Bhagi told *Mirror*, "The varsity first thought of holding the ceremony outside. However, due to inconvenience and as we had distinguished chief guests, the venue was shifted to the auditorium. The convocation of two batches were



Parents were left standing in the auditorium during ceremony

conducted and initially each student had registered two parents but ended up bringing 4-5 members from the family. We did our best to give seating arrangements to all parents." According to sources, 462 students had collected their degrees on Sunday.

Another parent who came to attend his son's convocation was asked to vacate the seat. Dharamchand Gupta told *Mirror*, "We were abruptly asked to vacate the seat by the faculty member because a mediator was supposed to be seated there. But they did not make alternative arrangements. We left the auditorium and sat outside."

"I saw parents of two students fighting in the auditorium and nobody came up to control the situation. There was mismanagement. If parents are invited to the convocation, they should be treated properly. This is a once-in-a-lifetime event and no parent wants to miss it," said Sandeep Salunke. Another LLB student from the batch of 2012-2017 was quite disappointed that his parents were made to stand during the convocation. Meenu Jain, a parent, said, "I was standing near the exit gate when the ceremony was on as there was no place to even stand in the auditorium."

## The gold winners

1. Aakshi Goel
2. Hitesh Borana
3. Kriti Kishore
4. Mayuri Gupta
5. Pallavi Ansal
6. Aakriti Khanal
7. Aayushi Singhal
8. Ashima Sharma
9. Aakarshita Dhawan
10. Ayushi Toshniwal
11. Chethana Venkataramhavan
12. Dipti Bajaj
13. Bhatt Himaja
14. Kriti Tuteja
15. Shivansh Jolly
16. Sudipta Purkayastha
17. Sugandha Rohatgi
18. Udit Bhatt
19. Alshwarya Raval
20. Aman Chandola
21. Arnaaz Javed Ameer
22. Deepshi
23. Gayathree Devi Kallyyat Thazhathuveetil
24. Krishna Samir Shah
25. Manjul Mantri
26. Muizz Ul Iftikhar Drabu
27. Nikhil Agarwal
28. Ritambhara Narang
29. Sameer Bhat
30. Shrishma Dandekar
31. Tanuja Aundhe
32. Vishakha Choudhary

# Democracy across world is sliding, says Justice Sikri

Justice Sikri and Justice DY Chandrachud of the SC were chief guests at the 9th convocation

PIGS: NILKANTH DAVE



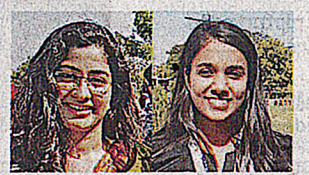
Justice A K Sikri (L) and Justice D Y Chandrachud

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Aspiring young lawyers of Gujarat National Law University took home pearls of wisdom from Justice AK Sikri, the second seniormost judge of the SC, and Justice DY Chandrachud at the ninth convocation ceremony held on Sunday.

Justice Sikri, who was part of a special committee that removed Alok Verma as CBI chief, said, "Today we are undergoing a transformation of a different kind. If you see the world at large, even the values of democracy which were practised years ago are at stake. There is a sliding of democratic values. There are so many challenges we are facing and each are of different nature. A judge has to perform a vital role, one is to uphold the law in the constitution and save the democracy and the other is bridge the gap between law and society."

He also emphasised that law is a lucrative profession and that one should earn money by maintaining moral and ethical values. He said, "Nobody says do not earn in this profession. You are joining the profession for earning. It is one of the most lucrative professions because many a time lawyers are earning money by resorting to wrong means, but what I am trying to emphasise is that it is not necessary at all. What is necessary is hard



Aakarshita, Gayathree Devi

## 26 of the 32 gold medallists are girls

Aakarshita Dhawan who received nine gold medals in her BA-LLB programme. "My entire hard work of 5 years has finally paid off," said Aakarshita, who is presently working with a corporate law firm and wants to get into litigation practice. Gayathree Devi, who won five gold medals and is currently pursuing her LLM at Oxford University, said, "Law is a mission for me."

work and to maintain integrity of self.

Justice D Y Chandrachud who was part of the bench that delivered the Sabarimala verdict, said, "As human beings, it is vital that we show compassion and empathy to those around us and the fight for gender equality cannot be fought alone. Men have a key role to play in demanding and supporting this societal shift by being a part of the conversation and movement."